

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1. (Currently amended) An actuating drive for a plasticizing unit of an injection molding machine, comprising:

a spindle drive having a stationary housing section and an electric motor with a drive element, said spindle drive moving between a first end position corresponding to a feed phase of the spindle drive and a second end position corresponding to a return stroke phase of the spindle drive ~~the spindle drive further including a control mechanism arranged between the drive element and the housing section; and~~

an energy storage device coupled with the spindle drive for force transmission therebetween, said energy storage device receiving energy from the spindle drive in the return stroke phase and transferring energy to the spindle drive in the feed phase;

~~wherein the spindle drive loads the energy storage device in a return stroke phase of the spindle drive and unloads the energy storage device in a feed phase of the spindle drive, said unloading of the energy storage device~~ said transferred energy boosting power of the electric motor, and

wherein the spindle drive ~~further including~~ includes a control mechanism arranged between the drive element and the housing section and engaging with the drive element ~~wherein the control mechanism operates in parallel with the energy storage device to actively modify an~~

~~effective-actuating~~ control the force transmitted between ~~[[of]]~~ the energy storage device and the spindle drive depending on a stroke position of the spindle drive.

2. (Original) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the control mechanism includes an adjustable force coupling between the drive element and the housing section.
3. (Original) The actuating drive of claim 2, wherein the adjustable force coupling comprises a brake which is activated depending on a stroke excursion, or a selectively releasable locking device.
4. (Original) The actuating drive of claim 3, wherein the locking device is implemented as a coupling.
5. (Original) The actuating drive of claim 3, wherein the locking device is implemented as a selectively releasable one-way locking device.
6. (Currently amended) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the spindle drive controls a stroke motion between a plasticizing cylinder and a plasticizing screw, and wherein the control mechanism comprises a friction brake that selectively locks the energy storage device at ~~a-stroke~~ the first end position corresponding to ~~and, at the beginning of a filling phase of the~~

~~plasticizing cylinder, impedes a return stroke force of the plasticizing screw and opposes said loading of the energy storage device.~~

7. (Currently amended) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the spindle drive controls a stroke of the plasticizing unit relative to a mold closing unit, the control mechanism further comprising a selectively releasable locking device capable of automatically locking the drive element, ~~which is biased by the energy storage device,~~ relative to the stationary housing in at least one ~~[[stroke]] of the first and second end positions position of the plasticizing unit.~~
8. (New) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the energy storage device includes a compression spring assembly with an adjustable spring pretension.
9. (New) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the spindle drive includes a spindle rod coupled to the drive element, said energy storage device including a disk spring assembly which secures the spindle rod against rotation.